



CHAPTER 6 COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES



Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

INTRODUCTION

Community facilities and services are important to the future of the city. They contribute to the health, safety and welfare of residents, improve the quality of life, and foster new housing and business development. The timing and location of new community facilities and services also influence private development. It is important that community facilities and services be adequate to meet expected demands, and at the same time be used to guide growth in an orderly and logical manner.

This chapter includes an inventory and assessment of public facilities and services provided by the city and other public and private organizations. Existing conditions and needs are identified for such facilities as the water and sewerage systems, public safety, solid waste, recreation and parks, schools, libraries and other cultural facilities. An inventory of hospitals and other public health facilities is also included.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

A ten-member board of commissioners and a mayor govern the city of Augusta. Eight of the commission members are elected from individual districts, and two are elected from a combination of four districts. The mayor is elected on a citywide basis. The term of office is four years, and no person can serve as either a commissioner or mayor for more than two consecutive terms. The mayor is the chief executive officer of the government and has the following powers and duties:

- ❑ To preside at all meetings of the commission;
- ❑ To serve as the official head of the government for the service of process and for ceremonial purposes;
- ❑ To administer oaths and take affidavits;
- ❑ To sign all written contracts on behalf of the City;
- ❑ To ensure that all laws, ordinances, and resolutions are faithfully executed.

The mayor has the right to vote to make or break a tie vote on any matter coming before the commission, but cannot veto ordinances, resolutions, or other actions of the commission.

Commission members sit on one or more of five standing committees: Finance, Administrative Services, Engineering Services, Public Services, and Public Safety/Information Technology. The appropriate committee first hears ordinances, resolutions and other matters. From the committee, an item is forwarded to the full Commission for consideration. The Commission meets twice each month, as do each of the committees. In January of each year the Commission elects a member to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. The Mayor Pro Tem chairs the Commission meeting in the absence of the Mayor, and performs other duties as assigned by the Commission. A member can serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms as Mayor Pro Tem.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

The Commission employs an Administrator to coordinate the day-to-day activities of city government. The city employs approximately 2,600 people in over fifty different departments. A number of the departments are located in the Municipal Building at 530 Greene Street, and a couple of annex buildings. Other major facilities than the city owns, and some departments operate out of include:

- ❑ Public Works & License & Inspection Departments - 1815 Marvin Griffin Road
- ❑ Recreation and Parks Department - 2027-29 Lumpkin Road
- ❑ Law Enforcement Center - 401 Walton Way
- ❑ James B. Messerly Wastewater Treatment Plant - 1820 Doug Barnard Parkway
- ❑ Richmond County Correctional Institution - 2314 Tobacco Road
- ❑ Emergency Management Agency/911 Center - 911 Fourth Street
- ❑ Fleet Management - 1568 Broad Street
- ❑ Augusta Public Transit Administration & Garage - 1535 Fenwick Street
- ❑ Augusta Public Transit Transfer Facility - 1546 Broad Street
- ❑ Augusta-Richmond County Landfill - 4330 Deans Bridge Road
- ❑ Phinizy Road Jail - 1941 Phinizy Road
- ❑ Utilities Department, South Augusta Office – 2760 Peach Orchard Road
- ❑ Waterworks Filter Plant - 1425 Highland Avenue
- ❑ N. Max Hicks Waterworks Filter Plant – Tobacco Road

According to recent research by the Finance Department, the city leases 40,455 square feet of office space for other departments and agencies. The majority of the leased space - 30,445 square feet - is concentrated in three downtown buildings:

- ❑ The Hatcher Building, 501 Greene Street - the District Attorney, Facilities Management Department and Law Department
- ❑ New South Building, 360 Bay Street - Utilities Department Administration, Human Relations Commission, Coroner's Office
- ❑ ANIC Building, 925 Laney-Walker Blvd - Housing and Community Development Department and Fire Department Administration

The Municipal Building and the Law Enforcement Center together also are home to several constitutional officers, judges and their staffs. These include the Clerk of Superior Court, Tax Commissioner, Marshal's Department, Sheriff's Department, the State Court Solicitor, and judges for the following court systems: Superior Court, State Court, Probate Court, and Civil and Magistrate Court.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety includes police protection, fire protection, emergency medical services, 911 dispatch services, and animal control services. The Richmond County Sheriff's office provides police protection. All other public safety functions are provided through line agencies of the Augusta government.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Richmond County Sheriff's Office

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office is an independent public agency headed by an elected sheriff. The office employs 734 people and is divided into four divisions: Administrative, Uniform (or Patrol), Criminal Investigation, and the Jail Division. The Sheriff's Office also staffs and operates a training center.

The Administrative Division includes the Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Colonel, and another 91 personnel assigned to various administrative, record keeping, and public relations functions. Twenty-two people work in the Administrative Division (Sheriff's Office). Two officers and 32 clerks staff the records division. In the Civil Division there are 22 deputies assigned to serve court papers. Another 11 people provide supervisory or support functions in the Civil Division. The Public Relations section is staffed by 3 deputies, and 1 Sergeant and implements the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program.

The Uniform or Patrol Division is the largest division, employing 309 people (including the Housing Units). The division is comprised of two precincts - the North and the South. A Major oversees the entire patrol division, including Special Operations, and each precinct is commanded by a Captain. The precincts have four patrol shifts each, plus the various Special Operations units housed within that precinct. The uniformed patrol shifts operate on two 12-hour shifts. One Lieutenant commands these shifts with the assistance of two Sergeants and two Corporals. Patrol deputies are assigned either a permanent day or night shift. Each deputy on the shift is assigned a beat to patrol. Beat assignments are not rotated, thereby allowing a deputy to become very familiar with a specific patrol area.

Special Operations is a subdivision of the Uniform Division and is housed in both the North and South Precincts. Units within Special Operations include the Crime Suppression Team, the D.U.I Task Force, the Motorcycle/Traffic Squad, the Weed and Seed Unit, the School/Safety Patrol, and two Housing Unit Squads. A Captain oversees the Special Operations Division, and answers to the Patrol Division Major. The basic responsibilities of the units are as follows:

- ❑ Crime Suppression Team - A multi-function unit consisting of 9 deputies, 1 corporal, and 1 sergeant. Conducts saturation or directed patrols in high crime areas, execute search warrants and high-risk arrest warrants, and assigned to stake-outs, narcotics, and prostitution suppression efforts.
- ❑ DUI Task Force - An eight-person Unit whose primary function is the detection and apprehension of intoxicated drivers. The Sheriff's Office also operates a DUI van equipped with a Mobile Breathalyzer Unit, and included in this unit is a three man H.E.A.T. Unit. This Unit focuses on speeders, intoxicated drivers, and seat belt compliance. This Unit consists of 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal and 6 deputies.
- ❑ Motorcycle/Traffic Squad - Includes 1 Sergeant, 12 motorcycle units (2 of which are Corporals), and 1 parking violation deputy. This squad focuses on gaining

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

compliance with all traffic laws through aggressive enforcement of the traffic code. The squad also investigates motor vehicle accidents, conducts traffic surveys, and assists with efforts to increase seatbelt usage. The parking violation deputy patrols Broad Street, and adjoining streets enforcing parking regulations.

- ❑ Weed and Seed - This unit was created in January 1999 and consists of 3 deputies working under the direction of the Housing Sergeants. Originally funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Justice, the program is designed to "weed" out the criminal element in a neighborhood and "seed" programs and activities that create an atmosphere of security, safety and well being for residents. The Barton Village neighborhood is the target area for the unit.
- ❑ School/Safety Patrol - This unit is headed by a Sergeant who is responsible for overseeing Richmond County Board of Education school crossing guards. The sergeant also is responsible for inspecting all commercial taxicabs and limousines in Richmond County on a biannual basis.
- ❑ Housing - This unit consists of 13 Housing deputies, 3 Weed and Seed deputies, and 2 Sergeants divided between two patrols. The primary responsibility of the Unit is to patrol the housing complexes owned by the Augusta Housing Authority, and to up to two deputies on a daily basis to the Weed and Seed target area. A grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is used to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for the cost of this unit.

The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) includes 89 personnel and is responsible for following up on all crimes reported to the Sheriff's Office. CID is divided into six sections: administrative, motor vehicle theft, narcotics, property crimes, technical crimes and violent crimes. According to crime statistics, there were 33,301 crimes reported to the Sheriff's Office in 2006.

The Jail Division is responsible for operating two correctional facilities: The Augusta-Richmond County Law Enforcement Center at 401 Walton Way, and the Charles B. Webster Detention Center at 1941 Phinizy Road.

- ❑ Law Enforcement Center - This six-story tower opened in the latter part of 1985. Originally designed as a 240-bed facility, an additional 100 beds were added in 1987 to alleviate overcrowding. In 1997, the lower level of the facility was renovated and an annex was constructed that includes a new Intake-Release section, jail administrative offices, a transportation section, and a 27-bed infirmary. One hundred thirty-six employees, including 100 jailers, work at the Walton Way Jail.
- ❑ Charles B. Webster Detention Center - This \$16.2 million facility opened on November 17, 1997. The Detention Center has 552 inmate beds divided among four pods. Three of the pods house male inmates and the fourth one houses females. The facility is located on part of a 52-acre site that can accommodate

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

additional pods as the need arises. Ninety-nine employees, including 75 jailers, are assigned to the Detention Center.

The Richmond County Sheriff's Office Training Center is a 500-acre facility located on Deans Bridge Road near the Richmond County landfill. A staff of 8 coordinates all training activities at the program. The center conducts or hosts training courses 50 weeks a year to Sheriff's Office deputies and to personnel from other law enforcement agencies. The center is equipped with a "live fire" tire house and an Emergency Vehicle Operator Course.

Fire Protection

The Augusta-Richmond County Fire Department provides full-time professional fire protection to all parts of Augusta and within the city of Blythe. The service area covers approximately 214 square miles (excluding Hephzibah and Fort Gordon), and includes a mix of residential areas, high value districts, and woodlands. A high value district is an area of commercial, industrial and/or institutional land uses of unusually high property value. Examples of high value districts include downtown Augusta, the midtown medical complex, Augusta Mall and other shopping centers, and the Miracle Mile Industrial Park on Marvin Griffin Road. The service area includes a resident population of 188,141 (2000 Census).

The Fire Department has 313 employees and 39 pieces of firefighting equipment distributed among 19 fire stations. The department's headquarters is located at 925 Laney Walker Boulevard in downtown Augusta. Of the total employees, 288 are combat firefighters and the rest are administrative and support personnel. Administrative offices are located with the department headquarters on Laney Walker Boulevard. Both offices will relocate to a new building on Deans Bridge Road by the end of 2009. Within the department, the Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for arson investigation, code enforcement, and fire safety education. Schools, places of assembly, and buildings in high value districts are a top priority for life safety code enforcement. Table C-1 lists the location, number of personnel and major equipment at each fire station.

Table C-1
Fire Department Facilities and Equipment
Augusta-Richmond County

Station Number	Location	Year Built	Equipment	Personnel
1	1 Broad Street	2003	1500GPM Pumper Water Rescue Vehicle	12
2	1435 Walton Way	1957	1500GPM Pumper	12
3	1099 Reynolds St.	1970	1500 GPM Pumper 105' Aerial Truck Command Vehicle High Angle Rescue Vehicle	27
4	1866 Ellis St.	1974	1500 GPM Pumper	12
5	M.L.K. Blvd.	1996	1500 GPM Pumper Air Supply Vehicle	12

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Table C-1
Fire Department Facilities and Equipment
Augusta-Richmond County

Station Number	Location	Year Built	Equipment	Personnel
6	2618 Richmond Hill Rd.	2008	1500 GPM Pumper 104' Aerial Truck Command Vehicle	27
7	2917 Willis Foreman Road	2003	1500 GPM Pumper Hazard Mat Vehicle Tanker	12
7	2163 Central Ave. Training Center	1913	1921 American of France Fire Truck	0
8	2023 Highland Avenue	2004	1500 GPM Pumper 100' Aerial Truck Command Vehicle Light and Air Vehicle	27
9	3507 Walton Way Ext.	1974	1500 GPM Pumper 102' Aerial Truck	24
10	2625 Washington Rd.	1955	1500 GPM Pumper	12
11	2108 Old Savannah Rd.	1982	1500 GPM Pumper	12
12	1151 Hephzibah McBean Road	2004	1500 GPM Pumper 1500 GPM Tanker	12
13	2619 Lumpkin Rd.	1973	1500 GPM Pumper 1500 GPM Tanker	12
14	3507 Highway 88	1978	1500 GPM Pumper 1500 GPM Tanker	12
15	1721 Flowing Wells Road	2004	1500 GPM Pumper	12
16	3446 Old Louisville Rd	1995	1500 GPM Pumper	12
17	3705 Old Waynesboro Rd.	1975	1500 GPM Pumper Ladder Service Truck	12
18	4185 Windsor Spring Rd.		1500 GPM Pumper Haz Mat Vehicle Command Vehicle	15
19	1600 Brown Road	2004	1500 GPM Pumper	12

Source: Augusta Fire Department, December 2007

Emergency Medical Services

The Augusta 9-1-1 Center is located at 911 Fourth Street in downtown Augusta. The center is fully staffed on each shift with properly trained and equipped Emergency Medical Dispatchers. Depending on the nature of the call, an ambulance and/or the Fire Department First Responder is dispatched to the location. Rural/Metro Ambulance Service has a three-year contract to provide emergency medical services in Augusta-Richmond County.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Rural/Metro now uses seven ambulances at all times and eight during peak periods. Gold Cross Ambulance Service provides back-up service in the city.

Animal Control

The Augusta-Richmond County Animal Services Department provides animal control services in Augusta. Department staff includes a director, a kennel operations manager and a field supervisor. The department operates out of a relatively new 17,500 square-foot facility – it opened in January 2004 – located at 4164 Mack Lane. The facility is open for adoption of pets Tuesday through Saturday, from 12:45pm – 4:45pm, and closed on Sunday and Monday. Field Services are available Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM until 5:00PM excluding holidays. The department operates a fleet of trucks that provide coverage throughout the city. The facility takes in an average of 10,000 animals each year. After hours emergency calls are taken by the Sheriff's Department's Dispatch Office (706) 821-1080.

EDUCATION FACILITIES

The Richmond County Board of Education and several private schools provide elementary and secondary education facilities in Augusta and Richmond County. Post-secondary education facilities include Augusta Technical College, Augusta State University, Paine College, and the Medical College of Georgia. Brenau University, Troy University, the University of Phoenix and Savannah River College are other post-secondary institutions located in Augusta and offering a variety of degrees online or at a campus.

The Richmond County Board of Education consists of ten members elected by districts that coincide with the city commission district boundaries. Eight school board members are elected by single districts and the remaining two are elected by combined districts. The Board operates under a committee system established by the Board President. The Board appoints a Superintendent to administer the operations of the public school system. The Board employs approximately 5,222 people, and all administrative offices are located in renovated buildings located at 870 Broad Street in downtown Augusta.

There are currently 60 schools in the Richmond County public school system. Of these 36 are elementary, 10 are middle (including two charter schools), 8 are high schools, 3 are magnet schools and 3 are alternative / specialty schools. Enrollment as of the fall 2007 was approximately 33,070 students. The magnet school concept is designed to encourage system-wide attendance at inner-city schools. Richmond County opened its first magnet school in 1981. Currently Richmond County has three magnet schools: John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School (grades 6-12), A. R. Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet School (grades 9-12) and C. T. Walker Traditional Magnet School (grades K-8).

Private schools include Curtis Baptist School (grades K-12), Episcopal Day School (K-8), Hillcrest Baptist School (K-8), Immaculate Conception School (K-8), St. Mary on the Hill School (K-8), Southgate Christian School (K-12), and Westminster Schools (Pre-K-12).

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

RECREATION AND PARKS

There are sixty-four (64) public recreation facilities located in Augusta and Richmond County. Generally speaking, the facilities include community centers, neighborhood parks, playgrounds and specialized facilities. The community centers function as district parks, drawing users from a wide area, and offer both indoor and outdoor recreation programs. Eight (8) of the community centers - Henry Brigham, Johnson, McDuffie Woods, May Park, Bernie Ward, Warren Road, Diamond Lakes and Garrett Gymnasium (a joint use facility with the Richmond County Board of Education) - have gymnasiums, and all have outdoor play equipment. Most neighborhood-level parks have an activity building, athletic field, and offer programs geared to children and pre-teens. Neighborhood parks generally draw users from within walking distance.

Playground sites vary widely in their size and facilities. Some have only playground equipment, but most have athletic fields, multipurpose courts, and/or picnic areas. A number of facilities focus on individual sports such as swimming, boxing, golf, fishing and boating, tennis, soccer, and skateboarding. One example is Eisenhower Park, which has four ball fields and a playground. Adjacent to Eisenhower Park is a bridge over the Augusta Canal. The bridge provides pedestrian and bicycle access to the 7-mile long Augusta Canal National Heritage Area.

Julian Smith Park is a specialized facility that includes two recreation centers - Julian Smith Casino and the Barbecue Pit - an athletic field, playground and picnic areas, a disc golf course, Lake Olmstead, and a walking trail that connects to the Augusta Canal. Lake Olmstead provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation activities.

Though not a part of the City's park system, Pendleton King Park is a unique recreation facility that benefits the entire community. This 64-acre park is located on Troupe Street and is readily accessible from surrounding neighborhoods. The park is owned by the Trustees of the Pendleton King Estate, and operated and maintained by the City's Trees and Landscaping Department. Major facilities and attractions at the park include a large pavilion, playground equipment, picnic tables and shelters, tennis courts, an arboretum, and a disc golf course. Because of its size and location, Pendleton King attracts users from throughout the City, and hosts a number of special events each year.

The Augusta Recreation and Parks Department is the line agency responsible for recreation facilities and activities. The department's director administers all aspects of the department from programs, facilities and staff with the aid of an assistant director who handles the day to day operations along with other administrative personnel. The department has nine (9) divisions: Administrative, Athletics, Aquatics, Golf Course, Marketing, Operations, Planning and Development, Senior Services, and Special Events. In the past five years the department has entered into operating agreements with several community-based organizations. Under the agreements the organizations agree to operate selected recreation department facilities and provide volunteers to work at the facilities. Some of the organizations that have entered into agreements with the department include the Augusta Rugby Club, the Augusta Rowing

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Club, Sandridge Neighborhood Association, 30901 Development Corporation, Summerville Neighborhood Association, MACH Academy and the East Augusta Neighborhood Association. The agreements give the organizations an opportunity to participate in property maintenance and save the department thousands of dollars in personnel costs.

WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

Water System

The Augusta Utilities Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water and sewerage systems in the city. In addition, the Department provides customer service functions including meter reading and customer billing, revenue collection, and inspection of new construction. The Department is headed by a director and has 284 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions authorized in its fiscal year (FY) 2004 budget.

Augusta owns and operates a water system serving over 60,105 residential and 8,008 commercial and industrial customers as of July 31, 2004. The system's surface water supply is the Savannah River, supplemented by groundwater wells located throughout the city. Water from the Savannah River is treated at the Highland Avenue Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Water from the wells is treated at one of three ground water treatment plants (GWTP). Water transmission and distribution facilities convey the water from the treatment plants throughout the 210 square mile water service area. Generally, the service area can be characterized as having complete water service coverage for potential customers who wish to connect to the system. An agreement was signed by Augusta and Fort Gordon to provide water and wastewater services in 2007. As of March 1, 2008, Augusta Utilities Department will provide potable water and wastewater collection services on Fort Gordon for the next fifty years. The cities of Blythe and Hephzibah provide water service within their respective jurisdictions.

The Savannah River is the city's primary source of surface water. Water is also withdrawn from the Augusta Canal, which is fed by and located next to the river. Major facilities at the Raw Water Pumping Station, located on the Canal, include four raw water intakes on the canal (two primary and two secondary) and a diesel engine-driven standby raw water pump. The Raw Water Pumping Station has an aggregate pumping capacity of 88 million gallons daily (mgd).

The raw water supply is pumped to the Highland Avenue Water Treatment Plant through a system of three parallel raw water lines: a 30-inch diameter cast iron, a 36-inch steel, and a 60-inch ductile iron line. A 42-inch diameter, pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe is currently inactive. The standby raw water supply facility is at the same general location as the primary facility but pumps water directly from the Savannah River to the Highland Avenue Water Treatment Plant through the same system of raw water supply pipelines.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

The city is currently permitted to draw up to 60 mgd at the Raw Water Pumping Station. The construction of Pistol Range Road Raw Water Pumping Station (RWPS) located below downtown Augusta, and the new N. Max Hicks Water Treatment Plant (WTP) were completed in January 2005. The construction of the new water treatment plant and intake allowed an additional 15 mgd in permitted pumping capacity.

The city is also permitted to withdraw supplemental raw water from the Tuscaloosa Formation aquifer through 32 wells: 26 actively producing, 5 deactivated and 1 inactivate. The city is currently permitted to use up to 18.4-mgd monthly average groundwater, and 17.4 mgd maximum annual average. Well fields are generally located near one of three Ground Water Treatment Plants (GWTPs). One of the three plants, GWTP #3, located on Old Waynesboro Road, became operational in 2001. The other two plants date from 1966 and 1979. The wells that have been deactivated are in the vicinity of GWTP #1 located off Peach Orchard Road. Augusta holds permits for water sources as noted below in Table C-2

Table C-2 Water Withdrawal Permits Augusta-Richmond County		Permitted Withdrawal (mgd)	
Surface Water Permits		Monthly Average	24 hour Max. Day
Primary Source: Savannah River/Augusta Canal EPD Permit No. 121-0191-06		60.0	60.0
North Location: Savannah River EPD Permit No. 121-0191-09 (being relocated to the new intake site)		15.0	21.0
Groundwater Permit		Monthly Average	Annual Average
26 Active Wells - located at GWTP Nos. 1, 2, & 3 and three individual sites (Rural Chlorination Sys.) EPD permit No. 121-0007		18.4	17.4
Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 3-1			

Augusta owns four water treatment plants and a rural chlorination system, as illustrated in Table C-3. Augusta has raw water storage capacity of approximately 379 acre-feet or 124 million gallons at two raw water storage reservoirs located adjacent to the Highland Avenue WTP. They provide pre-settling of suspended matter in the raw water as well as storage during times of low river or canal flows. Water flows by gravity from these reservoirs to the WTP.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Table C-3
Water Treatment Plants and Chlorination System
Augusta-Richmond County

Plant	Rated Capacity for Treatment of Raw Water	2003 Production of Treated Water (max day)	Date of Original Construction	Dates of Improvements
Highland Avenue WTP	60.0 mgd	34.7 mgd	1939	1949, 1954, 1987, 1994, 2000, 2002
N. Max Hicks WTP	15.0 mgd	NA	2003-2005	New
Peach Orchard (GWTP No. 1)	5.0 mgd	5.51 mgd	1966	1969, 1996
Highway 56 Loop (GWTP No. 2)	10.0 mgd	7.92 mgd	1979	1985, 1992, 1996
Little Spirit Creek (GWTP No. 3)	5.0 mgd	4.98 mgd	2001	N/A
Rural Chlorination System	2.7 mgd	Operational Reserve Only	1972	Each year since 1981
Total	97.7 mgd	53.11 mgd*		

***Current operating limit = 78.4 mgd**

Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 3-3

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Finished Water Storage

The Highland Avenue finished water storage supplies the lower pressure zones directly by gravity while the remainder is pumped to the system's storage facilities located in various pressure zones. There are five finished water storage tanks (clear wells) at the Highland Avenue WTP with a total storage capacity of 15.45 MG. The treated water is then fed by gravity or pumped throughout the water distribution network.

Water Distribution System

The system's water distribution consists of approximately 1,048 miles of pipelines, ranging in size from 6 inches to 24 inches in diameter. Most of the pipelines are made of cast iron or ductile iron. Approximately 20% of these pipelines have been in service for 50 years or more, with the oldest pipelines installed approximately 140 years ago.

Finished surface water is distributed from the Highland Avenue WTP by gravity and pumping. Finished ground water is pumped from GWTP No. 1 into the Intermediate-South pressure gradient (417ft msl) and from GWTP No. 2 into the Pine Hill pressure gradient (457 ft. msl). GWTP No.3 pumps finished water into the Pine Hill high-pressure gradient (521 ft. msl). Distribution system pump stations situated at various locations are used to feed isolated high-pressure zones. A summary of the distribution system storage facilities for the surface water plant is illustrated in Table C-4.

Table C-4
Surface Water Storage Facilities
Augusta-Richmond County

Location	Location Elevation	Pressure Systems Served	Capacity (Gallons)
Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 1	433	N/A	1,250,000
Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 2	433	N/A	3,000,000
Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 3	433	N/A	5,000,000
Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 4	433	N/A	1,600,000
Highland Ave WTP Clearwell 5	433	N/A	4,600,000
Total Clearwells			15,450,000
Beckman's Road	417	417	500,000
Highland Ave WTP Tank	564	564	500,000
Highpointe Tank	564	564	1,000,000
Walton Way Extension	500	500	750,000
Belair Road	630	630	1,000,000
Total Elevated Storage			3,750,000

Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 3-6.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Table C-5 presents a summary of groundwater system storage facilities.

Table C-5 Ground Water System Storage Facilities Augusta-Richmond County			
Location	Location Elevation	Pressure Systems Served	Capacity (Gallons)
GWTP No. 1 Clearwell	162	417	500,000
GWTP No. 2 Clearwell	128	457	1,000,000
GWTP No. 3 Clearwell	240	521	2,000,000
Faircrest Avenue	436	597	5,000,000
Faircrest Avenue	417	597	500,000
Windsor Spring Road	417	417	500,000
Richmond Hill Road	417	597	500,000
Golden Camp Road	417	597	250,000
Algernon	417	417	2,000,000
Morgan Road (placed in operation Aug. 2000)	470	597	5,000,000
Cedar Ridge	417	521	1,000,000
Rose Hill	412	457	2,000,000
Wallie Drive	457	457	300,000
Total Ground Storage			20,550,000
Brown Road	521	521	3,000,000
Highway 56	457	457	500,000
Tobacco Road	597	597	500,000
Fairington Drive	597	597	250,000
Georgetown	597	597	500,000
Lumpkin Road	597	597	250,000
Old Waynesboro Road	521	521	500,000
Greenland Road	597	597	500,000
Total Elevated Storage			6,000,000
Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 3-8.			

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The city of Augusta's sanitary sewerage system serves approximately 47,744 residential and 5,900 commercial and industrial customers (as of July 31, 2004). The sewer system covers an area of approximately 106 square miles and serves an estimated population in excess of 150,000. For Gordon and the cities of Hephzibah and Blythe have separate sewer systems.

Augusta's wastewater collection and conveyance system consists of 8 drainage basins, 28 wastewater pumping stations, and approximately 680 miles of collection sewers. The sewers transport primarily sanitary sewage, but there is evidence of storm water infiltration in some of the basins. Approximately 80 percent of the sewer system is drained by gravity; the remainder requires pumping at least once. Sewer lines range from 8 inches to 72 inches in diameter. Most lines are made of vitrified clay, but other materials present include brick, concrete, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Approximately 20 percent of the sewer lines have been in service for 50 years or more.

Augusta owns and operates two wastewater treatment plants: the J. B. Messerly Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) located on Doug Barnard Parkway, and the Spirit Creek WPCP on Bennock Mill Road. The Messerly WPCP is the much larger of the two plants in terms of facilities and treatment capacity (see Table C-8). The Messerly WPCP has two separate treatment facilities, the North Plant and the South Plant. The North Plant, constructed in 1976, includes equipment providing primary and secondary treatment with a capacity of 17.8 million gallons per day (mgd). The South Plant was constructed in 1984 with a design capacity of 28.4 mgd. Flow equalization basins were added in 1995. In 1997, the first stage of a wetlands system was constructed to provide additional ammonia-nitrogen removal from wastewater at the Messerly plant. The second and third stages of the wetlands system were completed in 2001 and 2002. The constructed wetlands, located on a 400-acre site next to the plant, filter sewerage before it is released into Butler Creek. Discharges from the treatment plant also flow to the river via Butler Creek. In 2004, the final retrofit projects for J.B. Messerly WPCP were completed. These retrofits included improvement to secondary clarifiers, primary clarifiers, sludge pumps, and various mechanical and electrical systems throughout the plant. The success of the retrofit program is evidenced to the WPCP's recent performance and in maintaining full compliance for the first time in many years.

In 1999, the city hired the firm Operations Management International (OMI) to operate and maintain the Messerly WPCP. OMI also operates the Spirit Creek WPCP. The firm was hired in the wake of an order by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for the city to correct many deficiencies in the wastewater treatment system. Of particular concern to the EPD was the city's failure to punish industrial customers that inadequately pre-treat their wastewater. Since taking over management of the Messerly plant, OMI has issued hundreds of notices to industries for wastewater infractions, and has levied stiff fines against the violators. According to news accounts, the firm has also achieved cost savings at the plant.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

The Spirit Creek WPCP, constructed in 1988, serves the Spirit Creek basin in the southern part of the city. Wastewater is subjected to chlorination and aeration, and passes into the Savannah River. The plant has a rated treatment capacity of 2.24 mgd.

Table C-6
Wastewater Treatment Plants
Augusta-Richmond County

WPCP	Permitted Treatment Capacity (monthly Avg.)	2003 Treated Wastewater (Avg. Day)	Date of Original Construction	Dates of Improvements	Receiving Stream
James B. Messerly	46.1 mgd	33.94 mgd	1968	1976, 1984 1995, 1997 2001, 2002, 2004	Butler Creek
Spirit Creek	2.24 mgd	4.08 mgd	1988	1995	Spirit Creek
Total	48.34 mgd	40.0 mgd			

Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 4-1.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Richmond County, including Augusta, is situated in the Middle Savannah River drainage basin. According to the *Augusta Watershed Assessment Report* (2003), there are nine drainage basins in the county. The northern portion of the county generally drains in an eastern and southeastern direction and includes Rock, Rae's, Oates, Rocky and Butler Creeks. Spirit Creek, including Little Spirit Creek, drains the central part of the county. McBean Creek drains the southeastern part, and Sandy Run Creek and Boggy Gut Creek, both tributaries to Brier Creek, drain the southwest portion. The ninth drainage basin, commonly referred to as the River's Edge, includes the downtown area along the Augusta Canal, the area near Phinizy Swamp, and the area south of the swamp.

The municipal stormwater drainage system includes a variety of inlets, catch basins, drain pipes, open channels, culverts, detention and retention ponds and outlet structures. Generally speaking, in the urban service district stormwater is collected in catch basins and piped to a

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

receiving channel or creek located in one of the major drainage basins. In the suburban service district, storm water from residential and commercial development is usually piped to a retention pond. The retention pond holds the storm water and releases it at a controlled rate either into the city's conveyance system or into a natural drainage area.

The city of Augusta has adopted a watershed approach to protect and improve water quality in local streams and the Savannah River. The city's stormwater regulations require all new commercial and residential development to maintain runoff release rates at pre-development levels. More stringent requirements are in place for development in the Rock, Rae's and Rocky Creek basins. These three basins have been heavily impacted by urban development.

The city holds a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit issued on April 14, 2000. In February 2003, the city submitted a Consolidated Stormwater Management Program to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The city's stormwater management program includes the following components:

- **Structural and Source Control Measures** – This program is designed to reduce pollutants in runoff from commercial and residential development. Major activities under this program include maintenance of structural controls, establishing post-construction controls over new development, cleaning public streets, flood water quality assessment, monitoring of runoff from the city's landfill, reducing pollutants used in environmental control, and administering and enforcing local development ordinances and programs. Examples of regulations and programs affecting stormwater drainage and water quality include the Stormwater Management Ordinance and Technical Manual, the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, the Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations, the Zoning Ordinance, and the Community Greenspace Program. The Greenspace and Natural Resources chapter provides more information on these and other ordinances affecting water drainage and quality.
- **Detect and Eliminate Illicit Discharges** – In recent years the city has completed a series of capital improvement projects to eliminate the last of the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The city now has eliminated all known CSOs by separating storm and sanitary sewer flows. There is an ongoing effort by the Augusta Utilities Department (AUD) to replace the aging sewer conveyance system, address infiltration / inflow problems and extend sanitary sewer service to pockets currently served by septic tanks. Other measures being undertaken include periodic evaluation of significant discharge facilities, field screening of highly visible potential pollutant sources, enforcing existing ordinances and enacting new ones as necessary, responding to public complaints about discharges, and establishing procedures to prevent, contain and respond to spills.
- **Industrial Monitoring Program** – This program involves monitoring and controlling pollutants in stormwater discharges from the city's system, the landfill, hazardous waste treatment and disposal and recovery facilities, industrial facilities subject to the

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Superfund Act, and industrial facilities that the city determines are contributing a substantial pollutant loading to the system.

- **Reduce Pollutants from Construction Sites** – This includes site planning, development of appropriate structural and nonstructural Best Management Practices (BMPs), inspection of construction sites, enforcement measures for noncompliance, and educational and training measures for construction site operators. Many of the methods and techniques needed to minimize the impact of construction on stormwater quality are addressed under existing ordinances and regulations.
- **Outreach and Public Education** – The city of Augusta has developed an outreach program to highlight water quality issues. The outreach program includes visits to schools; presentations to civic groups, neighborhood associations, and homebuilders; and dissemination of information through the Internet, newsletters, mailings and flyers.
- **Activities in Impacted Water Bodies** - According to analysis done as part of the Augusta Watershed Assessment (2003), water quality in Augusta’s streams is good-to-excellent except for fecal coliform levels. Segments of three streams – Spirit Creek, Butler Creek, and Rocky Creek – are listed on the active 303 (d) list for fecal coliform. Butler Creek is also listed for Dissolved Oxygen and Selenium, and Rocky Creek is listed for toxicity. The city will take the following steps to address the problems in these three water bodies; delineate the limits of the drainage basin, conduct field assessment to identify possible sources of pollution, evaluate the impact of possible pollution sources, implement measures to address the pollution, and implement appropriate preventive measures.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Augusta-Richmond County Solid Waste Facility (the landfill), located at 4330 Deans Bridge Road, operates as an enterprise fund (i.e., it is funded by dollars generated from tipping fees) and receives municipal solid waste generated in the CSRA. Following consolidation of the city and county in 1996, solid waste collection service was gradually extended from the Urban Services District (the former city) to parts of the Suburban Services District. The goal was to provide area-wide solid waste collection service. As of 2007 approximately 90% of the suburban area is served by the city-provided collection services. At this point, all non-rural customers are serviced by the collection program. Augusta will expand with growth into new areas.

Collection services also include curbside recycling, yard waste and bulky waste collection. The Solid Waste Facility also has a courtesy drop off area for residents to dispose of one to two bags of household waste at no charge. The waste collected at the courtesy drop off area is moved to the landfill active-area by the facility staff. To keep the recyclable waste out of the waste stream, the facility operations also include metal recycling, scrap tire recycling and mulching operations.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Private haulers provide solid waste collection and disposal services to commercial, institutional and industrial customers. Private companies provide dumpsters, compactors and roll-off containers to their customers and dispose of collected solid waste at the landfill. The haulers have contracts with the city to provide these services and equipment.

The city will continue to cut down on the amount of solid waste generated and disposed of in the landfill, primarily by encouraging more recycling. The city provides curbside recycling as a part of its area-wide waste collection services and has established recycling drop off locations at fire stations.

The solid waste facility is located on part of a 1,187 acre site off Deans Bridge Road in South Richmond County, and is the only public municipal solid waste (MSW) Subtitle D landfill located in the Richmond County. Of the total acreage, 790 acres are usable for landfill. The landfill started operations in 1987. Initially a 100-acre part of the area designated for solid waste operation was used. This section of the landfill was not lined and was properly closed in 1994 to comply with the new solid waste federal and state regulations that required installation of liners and leachate collection and monitoring systems.

In 1994 a new lined section with a leachate collection system (Subtitle D) was constructed on an approximately 92-acre area with a footprint of 40.8 acres for solid waste disposal. This section is expected to reach its design capacity in early 2008 and will be properly closed. A 437-acre tract has had initial development as a Subtitle D landfill directly east of the currently permitted Landfill. Of the 437 acres in the expansion area, 310 acres are planned for waste disposal. This section is currently in use and has a remaining capacity of 95 years.

The landfill is operated as an Enterprise Fund by the Augusta Solid Waste Department. The landfill is currently receiving approximately 1250 tons of solid waste per day. As of August 1, 2004, tipping fees at the landfill were: \$33.50 per ton for general, mixed or demolition waste; \$16.75 per ton for inert waste; \$20.00 per cubic yard for asbestos; and \$3.00 and \$8.00 each of car or small truck, and tractor tires, respectively. Metals and tires are stored separately and sold to recyclers.

CULTURAL FACILITIES

Libraries

The East Central Georgia Regional Library serves the five counties of Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, Richmond and Warren. The headquarters branch for the system is located at 902 Greene Street in downtown Augusta. There are five other branches in the city: Appleby Branch, 2260 Walton Way; Diamond Lakes Branch, 101 Diamond Lakes Way, Hephzibah; Friedman Branch, 1447 Jackson Road; Maxwell Branch, 1927 Lumpkin Road, and Wallace Branch, 1237 Laney-Walker Boulevard. The Talking Book Center for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is located across the parking lot from the headquarters building. The

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

region serves daycare centers and group housing facilities by means of book deposit deliveries.

The library offers a wide range of services including videotapes, audio books, reference sources and computers with Internet access as well as print books. It has programming for all age levels from preschool through classes for senior citizens. The summer concert series in the Appleby Branch gardens and a system wide school vacation reading program for children are longstanding traditions.

Museums

The **Augusta Museum of History** is located at 560 Reynolds Street in a 45,000 square foot building that opened in 1995. A 10,000-square-foot addition, constructed in 2003, is used as archive and storage space. Permanent exhibits include "Augusta's Story", the community's medical history, a restored 1917-steam locomotive and a reconstructed 1930s gas station. Visitors can clean cotton in a replica cotton gin and view a 56-foot long Petersburg boat. Children can learn history through interactive exhibits in the Susan L. Still Children's Discovery Gallery. A recent exhibit commemorates the Godfather of Soul, James Brown. Documentaries are shown continuously and there is a museum shop.

The **Morris Museum of Art** is located in the Augusta Riverfront Center on the Riverwalk at 1 Tenth Street in downtown Augusta, Georgia. The first and largest museum in the country devoted to the art and artists of the South, the Morris Museum of Art is one of the region's leading cultural institutions. Noted for its multifaceted permanent collection and a rich program of regularly changing special exhibitions, the Morris is dedicated to the continued interpretation of Southern art in all its forms.

The museum's permanent collection includes thousands of paintings, works on paper (including watercolors, drawings, prints, and photographs), and sculpture, dating from the late-eighteenth century to the present. In addition to the permanent collection galleries, the museum hosts eight to ten special exhibitions every year and a wide variety of public programs, including lectures, readings, and concerts for a general audience, as well as more specialized programs for the museum's affiliate [membership](#) groups, children, families, and school groups. The museum's Center for the Study of Southern Art is a reference and research library on more than 1,000 artists who have worked in the South. The museum store offers exhibition catalogues, art books, handcrafted jewelry and unique gift items.

The **Lucy Craft Laney House and Museum of Black History** is located at 1116 Phillips Street in the Laney-Walker Historic District. Restored in the late 1980s by Delta House, Inc., the house includes a conference center, computer center and period garden. Programs include art and history exhibits, lectures and tours, Youth Leadership Academy, and senior citizens activities.

The **Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art** is located at 506 Telfair Street in the historic "Ware's Folly" building. The Gertrude Herbert serves as the CSRA's only independent non-profit art school and gallery. The Institute offers visual arts education opportunities for

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

students, provides outreach instruction to elementary school students and senior citizens, and hosts at least six major exhibits of contemporary art each year.

Augusta is also home to house museums reflecting the diverse history and culture of the community. Table C-7 lists the major house museums in the city.

Table C-7 Augusta House Museums	
Name & Location	Description
Meadow Garden (c.1795) 1320 Independence Drive	Built for George Walton, the youngest original signer of the Declaration of Independence and twice Georgia Governor. It is the oldest documented house in Augusta.
Ezekiel Harris House (c.1797) 1822 Broad Street	Built by tobacco merchant Ezekiel Harris, this Federal-era style house is a reminder of Augusta's importance as a colonial-era trading center.
Boyhood Home of Woodrow Wilson (c.1850) 419 Seventh Street	The future president lived here from 1860-1870 during the years his father served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The house was recently restored by Historic Augusta, Inc.
Lucy Craft Laney House and Museum of Black History (c.1911) 1116 Phillips Street	Lucy Laney was born into slavery yet went on to become one of the most outstanding educators in post-Civil War Georgia. She started Augusta's first black kindergarten and nurses' training program. Restored in the late 1980s by Delta House, Inc., the house includes a conference center, computer center and period garden. Programs include art and history exhibits, lectures and tours, Youth Leadership Academy, and senior citizens activities.

Augusta Welcome Center

Since 2004 the Augusta Visitor Information Center has been located in the lobby of the Augusta Museum of History at 605 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. The center is operated by the Augusta Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau. Information specialists can provide information on attractions, recreation, hotels, shopping, dining and

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

maps of the Augusta area. Visitors can also register for the Saturday Guided Historic Tour of Augusta, or pick up a souvenir to commemorate a visit to the city.

Fort Discovery

The National Science Center's Fort Discovery is an interactive math and science museum located at #1 Seventh Street adjacent to Riverwalk. The two floors of Fort Discovery cover 128,000 square feet and house more than 280 interactive exhibits. Other facilities include science teacher learning labs, a theatre, retail store, meeting space and a restaurant. Interactive exhibits focus on three technologies: electronics, computer arts and communications. The National Science Center (NSC) represents a partnership between a non-profit organization (National Science Center, Inc.) and the U. S. Army. The primary mission of the NSC is to improve technical literacy and to encourage an interest in math and science careers.

CIVIC CENTER AND SIMILAR FACILITIES

Augusta has a civic center, auditoriums and performing arts facilities used to host a wide variety of events and performances. The major facilities are listed below.

James Brown Arena (formerly Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center)

The James Brown Arena, which opened in 1979 as the Augusta-Richmond County Civic Center, is located at 601 Seventh Street in downtown Augusta. The James Brown Arena features an 8,500-seat arena and a 14,500 square-foot exhibit hall that opens into a 23,000 square-foot arena floor. The arena has eight permanent concession stands and offers barrier-free seating. Each year the arena hosts the Augusta Futurity, an eight-day event, the National Barrel Horse Championships, and Springtime and Christmas Made in the South, two of the largest craft shows in the southeast. The arena is also home to the Augusta Lynx of the East Coast Hockey League. The arena also hosts a variety of musical acts and other special events throughout the year.

Bell Auditorium

Part of the James Brown Arena Complex, the 2,690-seat theater is Augusta's principal arena for Broadway productions, musical acts, and local school performances. The Bell opened in 1938 and underwent extensive renovations in the late 1980s. The Bell is located at 712 Telfair Street in downtown Augusta.

Imperial Theatre

The Imperial Theatre is located at 745 Broad Street in downtown Augusta. The theater opened as "The Wells" in February 1918, and hosted vaudeville acts and such stars as Charlie Chaplin. The theater was renamed the Imperial after being purchased by Lynch Enterprises in late 1918. The Imperial also served Augusta as a motion picture theater for many years.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

The theater, which currently has 903 seats, was restored in 1985 and began its second life as a performing arts center. Today the Imperial hosts a variety of performances in a year.

Sacred Heart Cultural Center

The Sacred Heart Cultural Center is located at 1301 Greene Street in downtown Augusta. This late Victorian era edifice (c.1898) served as a Catholic Church from 1900 to 1971. The church was restored in the mid-1980s under the auspices of a local partnership. It reopened as the Cultural Center and now serves the community both as a home for non-profit organizations and as a unique venue for cultural and social events.

Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre

The Grover C. Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre is located at 2500 Walton Way on the campus of Augusta State University. The theatre is a 750-seat facility used for a wide variety of musical events and plays. The facility is available to both on-campus and off-campus users.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Riverwalk Augusta

Riverwalk Augusta is a riverside park conceived in 1982 as a part of a revitalization plan for downtown Augusta. Developed in phases between 1986 and 1992, this award-winning facility includes a brick-paved esplanade atop the river levee, a shaded walkway on the river side of the bulkhead, a playground and picnic area, the Jessye Norman Amphitheater, three landscaped bulkheads, and breaches in the levee at Eighth and Tenth Streets. A full-service marina was added in 1994. The park hosts a variety of special events each year and is close to other major attractions.

Augusta Botanical Gardens

The Augusta Botanical Gardens are located on an eight-acre site at #1 Eleventh Street (corner Reynolds) in downtown Augusta. The passive park includes a paved walking path, a series of display gardens, water features and restrooms. The gardens are open at no cost to visitors from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The gardens can also be rented for special events, such as weddings, birthday parties and concerts. The city of Augusta operates and maintains the gardens under a maintenance agreement with the property owner, the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame (GGHF). The Augusta Recreation and Parks Department is responsible for operating and maintaining the gardens on behalf of the city. The GGHF operated the facility as the Augusta Golf and Gardens from its opening in 2000 until June 30, 2007. The gardens reopened under the city's management in January 2008.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Springfield Village Park

Located on two acres at the intersection of Twelfth and Reynolds Streets, this park pays tribute to Springfield Baptist Church, the oldest independent African-American congregation in the United States with an unbroken record of existence. The park includes walkways, floral landscaping fountains, and the 45-foot tall sculpture "The Tower of Aspirations". Planned improvements include artifact and living history museums. Springfield Baptist Church is located across the street from the park.

Augusta Common

The Augusta Common is a 2½-acre park located in the 800 block of Broad Street in downtown Augusta. The park opened in October 2002 and is designed to connect Broad Street to the revitalized riverfront area. Park amenities include paved walkways, park benches, trees, raised planting beds, lighting fixtures, historical markers, wireless internet, and a statue of the city's founder, James Oglethorpe. An attractive, two-story service building was built next to the Common in 2004. Since opening, the Common has hosted a variety of festivals, music shows and special events.

Lake Olmstead Stadium

Lake Olmstead Stadium, located on Milledge Road, is the home of the Class "A" Augusta Greenjackets baseball team. Owned by the Ripken Group, the Greenjackets play in the South Atlantic League and have an affiliation agreement with the San Francisco Giants. Lake Olmstead Stadium was built during the fall and winter of 1994-95, replacing Heaton Stadium. The Stadium seats approximately 4,400. In addition to being the home of the Greenjackets, the stadium hosts concerts and special events throughout the year.

Phinizy Swamp Nature Park

Located on 1,100 acres near Augusta Regional Airport, Phinizy Swamp Nature Park offers visitors an opportunity to see a variety of wildlife and vegetation in a natural setting. Established in 1999, the park offers education and research opportunities for students and teachers, and gives residents and visitors a chance to interact with nature in many ways. The park enjoys growing support from a variety of volunteers including individuals, families, non-profit organizations, corporations, area school systems, and government. Facilities at the park include seven trails, two observation decks, and a wooden footbridge. An education facility is under construction, and upcoming projects include the re-design of a parking area, construction of a new research facility, visitor's center and restrooms, and completion of the Floodplain Boardwalk extension project. The park is operated by the non-profit Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Augusta Canal National Heritage Area

The Augusta Canal National Heritage Area (i.e. The Augusta Canal) is among the nation's best examples of a 19th Century industrial canal system. Constructed in 1845, and enlarged in 1876, the canal continues to provide power to historic mills alongside its banks, supplies water to the city, and forms a channel stretching approximately 8 miles from the Headgates in Columbia County to downtown Augusta. A number of historic structures associated with the canal still stand: the locks and dam at the headwaters, the lock keeper's cottage, a dance pavilion and barbecue shed, the city's raw water pumping station, Sibley Mill, King Mill, the Confederate Powder Works Chimney, Enterprise Mill (recently renovated into loft apartments and commercial space), Sutherland Mill (also undergoing adaptive renovation) and the Butt Memorial Bridge. Several historic neighborhoods adjoin the canal. The canal and its towpath tie these resources together, providing a ready-made walking (or paddling) venue for users.

The Heritage Area is managed by the Augusta Canal Authority and is being revitalized in accordance with a master plan adopted in 1993 and a management plan approved by the US Department of Interior in 2000 that includes a combination of preservation, conservation, education and interpretation, recreation and economic development activities. Among the recently completed projects are Bikeway/Multi-Use Trail Improvements, restoration of vintage structures at the Headgates, restoration of the Locks and Headgates Building and installation of a pedestrian bridge, river stairway and canoe dock. The Augusta Canal Interpretive Center, located in the Enterprise Mill, opened to the public in April 2003 and has been offering guided canal tours on Petersburg tour boats since fall of that year. Projects in design or underway include completion of the New Bartram Trail between the canal and Savannah River, new trails and boardwalks on the canal's southwestern bank and a heritage park and trails using the waterway's recently restored third level.

In 2006 Atlanta Gas Light Company and the city completed a multimillion dollar environmental clean-up and restoration of the canal's third level, located in the downtown/Laney Walker area. A planning task force representing stakeholders from government, neighborhoods, churches, businesses and the Augusta Canal Authority issued a concept document as a guide for future development in this area. The plan envisions multiple redevelopment projects including a heritage park, corridor reconfiguration on major roads, neighborhood housing and park improvements and adaptive reuse of industrial buildings.

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Augusta has a long history of service in the field of medicine. As a result, medical care, research and education facilities are vital to community life and the area economy. There are several major medical facilities in Augusta employing thousands of people. These facilities include acute care hospitals, psychiatric facilities, and extended care centers. Several of these facilities are located in a medical complex near downtown, and others are on individual sites elsewhere in the City. In addition to the facility-based employment, there are 1,111

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

physicians in private practice and many other residents employed in nursing homes, chiropractic clinics, dental offices, medical and dental laboratories, and other health services.

University Hospital

A 581-bed acute care facility located at the intersection of Walton Way and D'Antignac Street. University Hospital is part of the University Health Care System that employs approximately 3,000 people. Hospital services and facilities are numerous and include the W. G. Watson, M.D. Women's Center, the Georgia Heart Institute, University's Cancer Center, and the University Breast Health Center. University Home Health Services provides care to more than 3,000 patients in Georgia and South Carolina. University also operates two nursing facilities, Kentwood and Westwood. Besides the hospital, other facilities on the main campus include four professional office buildings, outpatient treatment facilities, three parking decks, and surface parking lots. Satellite medical centers are located on Peach Orchard Road in south Augusta and on Belair Road in Evans (Columbia County). University broke ground in December 2006 on a 60,000-square foot, \$13 million Medical Office Building 4, which will include a state-of-the-art Diagnostic Imaging Center and a 240-space parking structure. University's Evans campus has grown to include not only medical office buildings, but a surgery center, sleep center, speech and hearing center, prompt care, occupational medicine services and more than 20 private practice physician groups.

Since 1999, University has been named the Consumer Choice Award winner for overall quality and image based on an independent survey of consumers conducted by National Research Corporation to recognize the most preferred hospitals in metropolitan areas across the country.

Charlie Norwood Veterans Administration Medical Center

This two-division medical center, operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, provides tertiary care in medicine, surgery, neurology, psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine, and spinal cord injury. With emphasis on providing the most appropriate care, outpatient visits exceed 244,000 annually. In addition to health care, the Norwood VA is an active teaching and research facility that employs approximately 1,900 people.

The Downtown Division is a 155-bed acute care facility located at the intersection of Fifteenth Street and Walton Way in Augusta. This division provides primary care, surgical, neurosciences and spinal cord injury treatment for veterans. A Women Veterans Clinic, Agent Orange/Gulf War Examinations, Former POW and other registry services are offered at this division.

The Uptown Division, located at the intersection of Wrightsboro Road and Freedom Way, has 165 beds. In addition to psychiatry and intermediate medicine beds, this division houses a 15-bed Blind Rehabilitation Center, a 60-bed Restorative Nursing Home Care Center and a 60-bed Domiciliary. Specialty programs include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, hospice and residential care.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

On February 1, 2008, the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center (VAMC) hosted an open house at its new Aiken Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) located at 951 Millbrook Avenue in Aiken, South Carolina. The Aiken facility is designed to provide convenient access to VA health care services for South Carolina veterans.

Trinity Hospital of Augusta (formerly St. Joseph Hospital)

A 236-bed acute care facility located at the intersection of Winter Street and Wrightsboro Road in Augusta. The hospital, a fixture in the community for over 50 years, is known for pioneering many medical firsts, including cochlear hearing implants, stereotactic mammography, and a unique treatment program for hip and knee replacements. The hospital offers a wide range of medical and surgical services including the only hospital-based, inpatient hospice unit in the state of Georgia. Trinity Hospital of Augusta is part of Triad Hospitals, Inc. and employs about 1,000 people. Triad purchased the hospital from the Carondelet Health System in 2006.

Walton Rehabilitation Hospital

A 58-bed not-for-profit hospital located at the intersection of Thirteenth Street and Independence Drive in downtown Augusta. The hospital offers adult and pediatric inpatient and outpatient programs for persons recovering from stroke, head injuries, chronic pain and other disabling illnesses and injuries. Walton's continuum of care includes Walton Community Services offering residential and assisted living options to individuals with disabilities. Walton Options for Independent Living offers accessible housing, employment, assistive technology, alternative formats and advocacy, and Walton Foundation for Independence, which supports all of the above organizations. The Walton organizations employ approximately 300 people. In 2002, Walton was awarded the Georgia Hospital Association Community leadership Award. In 2003, Walton received a Magnolia Award for Excellence in providing affordable rental housing.

Doctors Hospital

Doctors Hospital is a 354-bed full-service facility and home to the nationally acclaimed Joseph M. Still Burn Center. The hospital is located on J. Dewey Gray Circle in west Augusta. The hospital recently added a new High Density MRI and the latest technology in diagnostic imaging support with Digital PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System). The hospital's cancer center continues to grow with the addition of a new Cancer Care Resource Center and leading-edge radiation therapy. The newly renovated Center for Women has a new look and the progressive philosophy of Mother Baby and Family Center Care. Upcoming projects at Doctor's Hospital include the 2008 – 2010 construction of a new three floor bed tower addition to the hospital. This project will add new private rooms and a new state of the art Intensive Care Unit. The hospital employs approximately 1,400 full-time and part-time staff.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

East Central Regional Hospital at Augusta

East Central Regional Hospital (ECRH) is comprised of two campuses: 3405 Mike Padgett Hwy., Augusta, Georgia (formerly Georgia Regional Hospital), and 100 Myrtle Blvd., Gracewood, Georgia (formerly Gracewood State School and Hospital). The state-supported facility serves consumers with mental health disabilities, developmental disabilities and addictive diseases. The hospital is designated as a Mental Health Emergency Receiving Facility for Region Two (2), which encompasses 39 counties in east central Georgia. Residential and other services are provided to the developmentally-disabled population. The hospital employs over 1,405 full-time staff and 185 part-time staff in support of its 645 beds.

Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center

A 120-bed medical center capable of expanding to 150-beds located on Fort Gordon in south Augusta. The facility offers medical care to active duty military personnel (all branches of service), military retirees and family members. Eisenhower is the regional tertiary-care referral center for the Southeast Regional Medical Command, which covers seven southeastern states and Puerto Rico. It is operated by the U. S. Army and employees approximately 2,250 people.

Medical College of Georgia (MCG) and Hospitals

MCG is the health sciences school for the University System of Georgia. Founded in 1829 at a location in downtown Augusta, MCG currently occupies a campus in the area roughly bounded by the triangle formed by Harper Street, Fifteenth Street and R. A. Dent Blvd.

MCG Health System is composed of three separate yet affiliated organizations -- MCG Health, Inc., the clinical services offered by the faculty of the Medical College of Georgia, and the members of the Physicians Practice Group. MCG Health, Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation operating MCG Medical Center, MCG Children's Medical Center, MCG Sports Medicine Center, MCG Ambulatory Care Center, Georgia Radiation Therapy Center and related clinical facilities and services. MCG Health, Inc. was formed to support the research and education mission of the Medical College of Georgia and to build the economic growth of the CSRA, the state of Georgia and the Southeast by providing an environment for delivering the highest level of primary and specialty health care.

The MCG Medical Center complex forms the core of MCG Health System's facilities and includes a 478-bed adult hospital, an Ambulatory Care Center with more than 80 outpatient clinics in one convenient setting, a Specialized Care Center housing a 13-county Level I regional trauma center and a 154-bed Children's Medical Center. The Health System also includes a variety of dedicated centers and units and more than 90 satellite clinics. Approximately 6,300 people are employed throughout the MCG complex.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Select Specialty Hospital

Select Specialty, an 80-bed hospital located at 1537 Walton Way, specializes in providing inpatient long-term acute care and rehabilitation, and outpatient rehabilitation services, related to the treatment of the most critical and complex medical and surgical conditions. All of the hospital's programs and services are designed to match the patient's acuity and individual needs. The programs are also designed to move patients from an acute care setting toward achieving their highest level of wellness possible. The hospital employs 292 physicians, nurses, therapists, and others. The hospital moved to its current location, a brand new facility, in March 2007.

ASSESSMENT

CONSISTENCY WITH SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs requires that all community facilities included in this chapter be reviewed for consistency with the current service delivery strategy. A review of facilities conducted as part of the Community Assessment confirms that all Augusta-Richmond County community facilities and services are being provided in accordance with the current Augusta-Richmond County – Hephzibah - Blythe Service Delivery Strategy as updated in March 2004. Amendments may be necessary as part of the 2008 update of the Service Delivery Strategy.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Following consolidation, the city hired a consultant to evaluate space needs for the government. The space study resulted in several alternatives ranging from adding on to the existing municipal building, to relocating all government functions to a new site. Over the last six years (2002-2008), these alternatives have generated a great deal of discussion and debate, and the consideration of a number of alternative sites for general government and judicial functions. Currently, the exterior of the 100,000 square-foot Municipal Building is being renovated.

The plans are to keep general government offices in the Municipal Building and build a separate judicial center on property at the northwest corner of James Brown Blvd. and Walton Way. The judicial center is being designed and a construction management company was recently hired (January 2008) to provide pre-construction and construction services for the project. Within the past year, the City purchased three vacant office buildings adjacent to the Municipal Building. The Engineering Department and some judicial functions were relocated to these facilities. Plans are being developed to house the Public Works-Engineering and Utilities Departments in new, permanent facilities.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of Augusta provides police protection and law enforcement through the Richmond County Sheriff's Office, fire protection through the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services under contract with Rural Metro Ambulance Service, and animal control through the Animal Services Department. The City is currently meeting the needs of its residents adequately in each of these areas, and is taking steps to meet the demands of the future.

Since the last update of the Comprehensive Plan, Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds have financed the construction of several new fire stations throughout the city. Improvements are underway at the Municipal Building, and a new Judicial Center is expected to move to construction by the end of 2008 or in early 2009. Phase V SPLOST funds have been budgeted for two new jail pods at the Charles B. Webster Detention Center, a Fire Department Administration and Training Center and the relocation of the Sheriff's Department Administration to the new judicial center.

EDUCATION FACILITIES

Beginning in 1996, the Richmond County School Board, an Administrative Planning Committee, a Community Oversight Committee, and a program manager worked together to program and complete a variety of improvement projects for the public school system. Among the factors that contributed to the need for the improvement projects were the following:

- ❑ The school system was growing at a rate of more than 400 students per year
- ❑ Overcrowding that resulted in the use of many portable classrooms
- ❑ Preventive maintenance was needed to protect the investment in many schools
- ❑ Overcrowding caused overuse of common areas, such as cafeterias and libraries
- ❑ Old schools could not accommodate the computer technology provided by lottery funds
- ❑ Good education facilities and programs promote economic growth and protect property values

Between 1996 and 2002, the Richmond County public school system completed a total of 47 improvement projects. Originally financed with a \$115 million bond approved by taxpayers (the bonds were repaid with a 1-cent local option sales tax approved by voters in 1996), the Phase I improvement program included the following projects:

- ❑ \$53 million to build six new schools, including Cross Creek High School, replacement of Sue Reynolds and Hephzibah Elementary Schools, and the consolidation of Levi White/Jenkins Elementary Schools, Craig/Houghton Elementary Schools, and Lake Forest/Forest Hills Elementary Schools (completed)
- ❑ \$56 million in expansions and renovations to 27 schools (completed)
- ❑ \$2 million in roof repairs (completed)

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

- ❑ \$600,000 to retrofit 5 schools for technology (completed)

In the summer of 2001, the School Board, Administrative Planning Committee, and Community Oversight Committee completed an assessment of additional construction projects needed to bring facilities up to the expectations for the 21st century. Continued overcrowding and the use of portables, the passage of HB 1187 mandating reduced class sizes, and the age of some schools were some of the major factors contributing to the need for more projects. In November 2001, voters approved a five-year extension of the 1-cent sales tax for schools that funded the following Phase II projects:

- ❑ Construction of two (2) new elementary schools in south Augusta (completed)
- ❑ Construction of a replacement school for Hornsby Elementary School (under construction in 2007-08)
- ❑ Construction of a new Vocational/Technical Magnet High School (in design, February 2008)
- ❑ Construction of a replacement for A. R. Johnson Science Technology High School (under construction in 2007-08)
- ❑ Construction of new stadiums at Westside, Glenn Hills, and Laney High Schools (completed)
- ❑ Expansion (mostly new classrooms) and renovations at 17 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, and 5 high schools (completed)

To date, Phase I improvements total approximately \$150 million and Phase II improvements represent another \$160 million worth of work

In November 2006, voters approved another five-year extension of the 1-cent sales tax for schools. The sales tax receipts will fund another \$231 million in school improvement projects. Some of the major projects on the Phase III list include the following:

- ❑ Construction of four (4) new schools – one elementary school, one middle school, one magnet school and one vocational magnet school
- ❑ Construction of new running tracks for three schools
- ❑ Construction of new gymnasiums at Richmond Academy, Hephzibah High and Westside High School
- ❑ Construction of new stadium and athletic complex for Hephzibah High School
- ❑ Renovations to gymnasiums at Butler High, Lucy Laney High and A.R. Johnson High School
- ❑ Renovations to several schools
- ❑ Panic buttons for buses
- ❑ Purchase of new buses and maintenance
- ❑ Purchase new textbooks, computer hardware and software

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Recreation and Parks Department is continually planning facility and program improvements. The department's basic strategy is to develop new facilities to meet the needs of growth areas and underserved neighborhoods, rehabilitate existing facilities to maintain their viability, and adapt programs and services to meet changing demands. In recent years, the Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) has helped finance the construction and rehabilitation of many recreation facilities. Between 1998 and 2002, 51 facilities were rehabilitated and another 9 were constructed with the aid of SPLOST III funds. New facilities include the Aquatics Center, Henry Brigham Swim Center, Blythe Community Center, the Skateboard Park, Soccer Complex, and Diamond Lakes Regional Park. Diamond Lakes is located on a 286-acre site on Windsor Spring Road in south Augusta. Phase I improvements at Diamond Lakes include a five-field youth baseball softball complex, a five-field adult softball complex, two towers featuring a first level concession and restroom facility, a second level viewing and picnic area, and third level scoring area, a one-mile walking track, three wooded picnic areas with tables and grills, and four fully-stocked public fishing ponds.

A total of \$13.7 million in Phase IV SPLOST funds were appropriated for recreation improvements. New facilities completed include Brookfield Park, Sand Hills Park, and McBean Park, Diamond Lakes Community Center/Library, A. L. Williams Park, Carrie J. Mays Gymnasium and a new Maintenance/Operations Facility. A number of recreation improvement projects were also completed under Phase IV of the SPLOST.

SPLOST V funds were available in 2006 and 2007 for all Recreation and Park Projects. A total of \$5,000,000 has been allocated for 30 park sites. Some of the bigger projects to be completed during this phase include: a new tennis complex at Diamond Lakes, three new tennis courts at Fleming Tennis Center, new 30 x 52 picnic pavilions at Diamond Lakes and Brookfield Parks and a new walking track at M. M. Scott Park. In addition a number of renovation and improvement projects will be getting started. The department will also be continuing phased improvements to existing park master plans at the following parks; Wood, Blythe, McBean, Lake Olmstead, Newman Tennis Center and the Augusta Soccer Park.

WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS

Future Water Needs

Augusta's projection of future water production needs is based on the anticipated total population, including Fort Gordon's on-base population. These future demands for Fort Gordon are included with the industrial customers in the 2010 through 2025 projections. The geographical distribution of population is not a factor in the plant-level planning, but is important with respect to water transmission as part of the hydraulic distribution of water to customers.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

EPD released its Water Conservation Plan Guidelines on May 24, 2004 which establishes benchmarks for water use efficiency statewide and voluntary and mandatory educational, regulatory, and financial conservation incentives. The utility's compliance with the plan is expected to result in a decline in per capita use. It is projected that per capita residential and commercial demands will fall by 2 percent by the year 2025.

Table C-8 presents Augusta's 2003 and projected per capita water usage in gallons per day. This usage rate is determined by dividing total water produced by population. This rate includes both customer-billed usage plus unaccounted for water. The per capita needs include residential and commercial usage. Industrial needs are presented separately because they are not expected to be directly linked to population growth. The projected annual average production in million gallons per day (mgd) and maximum day production are intended to be planning-level estimates of the city's future needs.

Table C-8				
Projected Water Consumption, 2003 to 2025				
Augusta-Richmond County				
	2003	2010	2020	2025
Total Population	190,395	200,602	212,005	216,961
Per Capita Water Usage, gpd (commercial and residential)	154	153	152	151
Industrial Usage, mgd	10.1	16.4	16.8	17.0
Annual Avg. Water Usage, mgd	37.6	47.1	49.0	49.7
Max. Day Water Usage, mgd	52.7	67.8	70.7	71.9
Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 3-12.				

While the city is taking steps to encourage water conservation, the development pattern and population distribution will also affect the amount of water consumption. The population of Richmond County is expected to increase from 200,075 persons in 2005 to 219,913 persons by 2030. This growth, combined with additional demands from Fort Gordon, means average annual water demands are expected to increase. To meet projected water demands in the future, the expansion of Highland Avenue WTP is underway which will assure sustained operational capacity of 60-mgd in addition to the new Hicks WTP 15-mgd first phase. The Hicks WTP and the James B. Messerly WPCP expansions will be completed as planned when system demands are projected to need the additional capacity.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Projected Wastewater Flows

A consulting firm, CH2MHill, prepared the Master Plan 2000 for Water and Wastewater Systems in Augusta. The Plan included projections of wastewater flows to the year 2020. Factors considered in projecting wastewater flows included population projections and the proportion of water accounts connected to the wastewater system. The population projections for the city indicate that much of the growth will occur in the Spirit and Little Spirit Creek drainage basins. The proportion of residences and businesses connected to the system is expected to increase as new residences and businesses are added and as some portion of existing residents connect to the system. Table C-9, reprinted from CH2MHill's Engineer's Report, presents the sewered population, percentage change in sewered population, the projected wastewater flows, and the maximum month flows. The maximum month flows are based on the historical relationship between annual average flows and maximum month flow at the J.B. Messerly WPCP, as well as the expected relationship at Spirit Creek after the completion of the major I/I improvements in its collection system.

Table C-9 Wastewater Flows, 2003 to 2025 Augusta-Richmond County				
Total WPCP Flows	2003	2010	2020	2025
Sewered Population	149,683	169,938	182,576	191,008
Percent Change		13.53%	7.44%	4.62%
Average Annual Flow (mgd)	38.02	40.34	42.89	44.62
Max. Month Flow (mgd)	46.33	49.21	52.33	54.44
Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 4-4.				

Water and Waste

Water System Improvements

The Master Plan 2000 includes a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the city's water and sewerage systems. Projects are to be financed by scheduled debt issues in 2000, 2002, 2005 and 2008. The projects include a mix of improvements to water treatment

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

facilities, the water distribution system, the wastewater treatment plants, the wastewater conveyance system, and system-wide projects. Table C-10 summarized the source and use of estimated funds for the recommended CIP.

Table C-10 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan – Cost Estimates Water & Wastewater Systems Augusta-Richmond County				
Recommended Improvements	Cost Estimate 2000 Bonds	Cost Estimate 2002 Funds	Cost Estimate 2005 Funds	Cost Estimate 2008 Funds
Water Treatment Facilities	\$28,655,000	\$57,829,000	\$38,500,000	\$ 2,000,000
Water Distribution System	19,789,000	14,739,000	13,700,000	1,500,000
Water Treatment Plants	-	8,867,800	33,100,000	15,200,000
Wastewater Conveyance System	9,322,000	41,219,200	20,000,000	4,200,000
System-Wide Projects	5,895,000	7,345,000	7,200,000	2,100,000
10-Year Capital Improvement Plan	\$90,127,000	\$130,000,000	\$112,500,000	\$25,000,000
SOURCE: Engineer's Report, Augusta Utilities Department, Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2000, Appendix C and Engineer's Report, Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2002, Appendix D. NOTE: All estimated costs in 2002 dollars.				

The City sold revenue bonds in the year 2000 to finance the first three years (2001-2003) of the CIP. The CIP to be financed with the Series 2002 bonds is summarized in Table C-11. The CIP provides for upgrades and development of the water treatment and distribution system, wastewater conveyance, and wastewater treatment facilities. For the water system

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

the CIP provides for significant improvements to the Highland Avenue WTP, improvements to the water distribution system, and the construction of a new water treatment plant. The new water treatment plant is located on a site near the intersection of Tobacco Road and Mike Padgett Highway. For the wastewater system, the CIP provides for additional improvements to the Messerly WPCP and expansions and extensions of the wastewater conveyance system.

Table C-11	
Series 2002 Bond Projects: Summary of Estimated Cost	
Augusta-Richmond County	
Recommended Improvements	Estimated Cost
Water Treatment Facilities	\$57,829,000
Water Distribution System	\$14,739,000
Wastewater Treatment Plants	\$8,867,800
Wastewater Conveyance System	\$41,219,000
System-Wide Projects	\$7,345,000
Total System	\$130,000,000
Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2002, Engineer's Report, June 13, 2002, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 5-1	

The Water and Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004 will be used to fund the next phase of the Department's 10-year CIP initiated in 2000. Construction associated with the 2004 Programs will be completed in 2009. The 5-year CIP to be financed with the Series 2004 bonds is summarized in Table C-12. The CIP will provide for upgrades and development of the water treatment and distribution system, wastewater conveyance, and wastewater facilities.

For the water system, the Highland Avenue WTP expansion is underway. The expansion of the plant started last year, November 2006 and will be completed in June 2009. The addition of a new filtration building and general upgrades will increase its treatment plant's daily production from 45 million to 60 million gallons. For the wastewater system, the CIP provides design and construction to the James B. Messerly WPCP and expansions and extensions of the wastewater conveyance system. Improvements to the wastewater conveyance system include interceptor line upgrades, expansion and extensions, infiltration/inflow reduction, and extending service to a number of unsewered pockets.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

Table C-12	
Series 2004 Bond Projects: Summary of Estimated Cost	
Augusta-Richmond County	
Recommended Improvements	Estimated Cost
Water Treatment Facilities	\$38,300,000
Water Distribution System	\$17,455,000
Wastewater Treatment Plants	\$55,751,000
Wastewater Conveyance System	\$56,084,000
System-Wide Projects	\$22,010,000
Total System	\$189,600,000
Source: Augusta, GA - Water & Sewerage Revenue Bonds, Series 2004, Engineer's Report, November 2004, Prepared by CH2MHill, Table 5-1	

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Damaging floods in recent years highlighted the need for improvements to the storm water drainage system and changes to local development ordinances. All of the major drainage basins have been the focus of engineering studies in recent years. Projects resulting from the studies have included new retention facilities, channel improvements, upgrades to drainage pipes and installation of new bridges and culverts. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is completing the Regional Flood Control Feasibility Study. This study will include recommended structural and non-structural drainage improvement projects in the following basins: Rae's Creek, Rocky Creek, the Augusta Canal and Phinizy Swamp.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Augusta-Richmond County landfill is in compliance with Georgia Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, and all applicable federal and state rules and regulations. The facility is operating under the 1998 Solid Waste Management Plan that will be updated in 2008 for the next ten years. The new plan will include an updated profile of the solid waste management system and facilities and identify projects and initiatives to be implemented over the next 10 years.

LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

A SPLOST-funded new 90,000 square foot headquarters library is currently in the final planning stages. It will be situated across from the current building, along James Brown Boulevard, between Greene and Telfair Streets. Land has been acquired and some demolition of existing structures has already been accomplished. The new library plans to be fully operational by June 2010. The use of the existing building at 902 Greene Street has not been finally determined.

Chapter 6– Community Facilities and Services

A few years ago the Greater Augusta Arts Council commissioned a study regarding the construction of a new performing arts center. The Performing Arts Center Study, recommended construction of a multi-purpose facility on a site near the riverfront between Seventh and Eighth Streets. The center would include a 2,000-seat theater with a main floor, a mezzanine and a balcony, and a separate 400-seat theater with fully equipped stage for smaller productions. At the time the study was completed, the center was estimated to cost approximately \$55 million. Funding was to come from both the public and private sectors. Though not funded to date, the project is considered a needed project by many in the community. It may well be considered for funding in the next SPLOST round.

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Augusta's hospitals and health care institutions are constantly planning and implementing projects to address current and future needs. Within the last couple of years, MCG opened a new Allied Health Sciences Building (\$37 million) and a Cancer Research Center (\$54 million). MCG is in the process of designing a new 59,000 square-foot outpatient cancer center. Work on the \$31.0 million project will begin in the summer of 2008 and, when completed, will consolidate cancer services in one location. It represents the first of several projects to be financed with \$135.0 million in bonds recently approved by the board of MCG Health, Inc.

MCG is also in the process of updating its campus master plan. Preliminary plans call for a new school of dentistry, additional research and biotechnical facilities, additional parking and off-campus student housing. Final plans for these and other facilities depend in part of decisions that have yet to be made regarding the expansion of medical education facilities and programs throughout the university system.

University Hospital is constructing a 199,000 square-foot cardiovascular center as part of an \$84.0 million expansion/renovation project. When completed in early 2009, the project will consolidate heart patient rooms, the cardiovascular intensive care unit, catheterization labs and operating rooms in one location. Doctor's Hospital just started a \$55.0 million renovation project. The project will remake the hospital entrance and lobby, add a 24-bed intensive care unit, add 24 private rooms and renovate the Joseph M. Still Burn Center. The project is scheduled for completion in 2010.